

Criteria for Housing Slots under the USDOJ Settlement Agreement

Presentation to the Blue Ribbons Commission Task Force on Housing
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“Housing Slot(s)” are defined as State or federal housing vouchers and/or rental subsidies for community-based supported housing. Each Housing Slot includes a package of tenancy support, transition support and rental support.

1. Housing Slots will be provided for individuals to live in settings that meet the following criteria:
 - a. They are permanent housing with Tenancy Rights;
 - b. They include tenancy support services that enable residents to attain and maintain integrated, affordable housing. Tenancy support services offered to people living in supported housing are flexible and are available as needed and desired, but are not mandated as a condition of tenancy;
 - c. They enable individuals with disabilities to interact with individuals without disabilities to the fullest extent possible;
 - d. They do not limit individuals’ ability to access community activities at times, frequencies and with persons of their choosing;
 - e. They are scattered site housing, where no more than 20% of the units in any development are occupied by individuals with a disability known to the State, except as set forth below:
 - i. Up to 250 Housing Slots may be in disability-neutral developments, that have up to 16 units, where more than 20% of the units are occupied by individuals with a disability known to the State;
 - f. They afford individuals choice in their daily life activities, such as eating, bathing, sleeping, visiting and other typical daily activities;
 - g. The priority is for single-occupancy housing.
 - i. If single-occupancy housing is not available when a person is ready to transition to community-based housing, he or she can choose to either live with a roommate, or wait for single-occupancy housing. If an individual chooses to live with a roommate, after being fully informed about his or her options, each roommate must have his or her own bedroom and the individual must have the opportunity to

choose his or her roommate. If an individual chooses to wait for single-occupancy housing or housing with a particular roommate, after being fully informed about his or her options, he or she will receive the in-reach and discharge planning services, and will remain eligible to receive a Housing Slot in single-occupancy housing or with a particular roommate once one is available.

- ii. Single-family housing is not preferred; however, Housing Slots may be in single-family houses, if the individual, after being fully informed about his or her options, affirmatively seeks to rent a house or room in a house. Additionally, such single family houses must meet all other criteria listed above. Housing Slots may not be offered in a home in which the owner is the service provider unless the home has no more than two bedrooms, and the transition team has obtained assurances that the individual is offered choice of service provider and that his or her right to reside in the home is not contingent on the service provider the individual chooses. The State will also make efforts to minimize use of homes in which the owner is the service provider when located in an area where there are other available housing providers. If an individual chooses to live in a single-family house because no other housing is available, that individual will receive the in-reach services and will remain eligible to receive a Housing Slot in single-occupancy housing once one is available.
2. Housing Slots made available under this Agreement cannot be used in adult care homes, family care homes, group homes, nursing facilities, boarding homes, assisted living residences, supervised living settings, or any setting required to be licensed.
3. Individuals will be free to choose other appropriate and available housing options, after being fully informed of all options available. Being fully informed means that an individual has been provided information about the option of transitioning to supported housing, its benefits, and the array of services and supports available as set out in this Agreement. However, housing that does not meet the criteria will not be considered a Housing Slot for purposes of this Agreement. If an individual chooses a housing option that does not meet the criteria because a Housing Slot is not available, that individual will receive in-reach services and discharge planning services and will remain eligible to receive a Housing Slot as soon as one is available.